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The more people do the more they can do; he who does nothing renders himself incapable of doing anything; while we are executing one work we are preparing ourselves for undertaking another.

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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

The usual monthly Meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, was held at the Office of the Society, 11 North Parade, Kingston, on Thursday, 21st December, 1916, at 11.40 a.m. Present: His Excellency Sir Wm. H. Manning, K.C.M.G., C.B., (presiding), Sir Jno. Pringle, K.C.M.G., Hons. P. C. Cork, C.M.G., R. P. Simmonds and S. S. Stedman; Messrs. R. Craig, A. W. Douet, Jas. Dougall, A. W. Farquharson, A. C. L. Martin, E. W. Muirhead, Conrad Watson, Walter Woolliscroft, Rev. W. T. Graham, and the Secretary, Jno. Barclay.

Apology for Absence.—Apology for absence was submitted from Mr. G. P. Dewar.

Confirmation of Minutes.—The Minutes of the previous Meeting having been printed and circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

Statement of Accounts.—Statement of Accounts was submitted.

Notice of Motion.—Mr. Craig asked and obtained leave to move the following resolution without previous notice:—

"That this meeting pledges itself to support and co-operate with the British Empire Producers' Organization in its efforts to secure preferential treatment for Empire-grown produce, especially sugar, and to contribute to the funds of that organization as far as lies in its power."

Mr. Craig referred to the objects of the British Empire Producers' Organization as being of the utmost importance to Jamaica as all other parts of the Empire, and that the Agricultural Society should make it a duty to support these objects. He urged that the motion should be adopted.

Hon. P. C. Cork seconded the resolution. He pointed out that all the sugar necessary for consumption in the Empire could be grown within the Empire, and he thought it would be a most desirable thing for them to co-operate with the above named organization.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to, and the Secretary was instructed to send a copy to the Governor and to the British Empire Producers Organization and the West India Committee.

As arising out of the previous minutes, the following matters were considered:—

(a) *Question re Remounts for British Army.*—The Secretary said that at the October meeting Mr. Muirhead had given notice to ask the following question:

Will the Secretary say if he has any copy of a report made to the Government by a Major Wilson who was here some years ago enquiring into the suitability of Jamaica as a horse-breeding country for the purpose of producing remounts for the British army. If so, will he place same before the parties appointed, if any, to consider the question of breeding horses and mules to supply the Canal Zone authorities ?

The Secretary said he had communicated with the Colonial Secretary, and he had received a reply stating that the Government had no record of such a report.

(*b*) *Resolution re Produce Protection Law* —At the October meeting, Mr Muirhead had also given notice to move the following resolution :

"That the Secretary be requested to obtain from the Colonial Secretary the total amount of revenue, collected under the Produce Protection Law since same came into effect, giving the amount collected each year from then till now, and will the Colonial Secretary also state if any sums of money have been spent by the Government for the betterment of the produce business or the improvement of the markets abroad for same, and if so, state when and to what extent with particulars of same "

The Secretary read letter from the C S O. in reply as follows : —

No 15351-18395. 11th December, 1916.

"I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter C S O., No. 87, dated the 8th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a question that Mr F W Muirhead of Mandeville, gave notice that he would ask at the next meeting of the Board of Management of your Society, and in reply to transmit herewith a statement of collections under the Produce Protection Law of 1903, to the end of 1916.

2 I am to say that His Excellency will reply verbally to the second part of Mr. Muirhead's question, after the resolution has been passed."

(Sgd) G M. WORTLEY.
Actg Asst. Colonial Secretary.

STATEMENT OF COLLECTIONS UNDER THE PRODUCE PROTECTION LAW OF 1903 TO THE END OF 1916.

No 1674 2737. Collector General's Office,
Jamaica, 30th November, 1916.

"In reply to your letter No. 14692 17053, dated the 27th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith Statement of Collections under the Produce Protection Law of 1903 The figures are set out parochially in Appendix VIII of the Departmental Annual Report "

(Sgd.) A. H MILES
Collector General.

1903-04	£2,828	19	0
1904-05	£2,775	7	0
1905-06	£3,218	3	0
1906-07	£6,148	15	0
1907-08	£6,105	10	0
1908-09	£5,872	10	0
1909-10	£5,911	10	0
1910-11	£5,338	5	0
1911-12	£6,549	0	0
1912-13	£5,032	15	0
1913-14	£5,786	10	0
1914-15	£4,815	10	0
1915-16	£4,745	14	0
	£65,128	8	0

The President said recommendations had been made from time to time through the Society as to the desirability for certain amend-

ments in connection with this Law, and while admitting that they might be necessary, as the matter was likely to be of a decidedly controversial nature, it had been held over until after the war.

Mr. Muirhead pointed out that he had asked the question primarily for the purpose of discovering whether any extra assistance had been given for the protection of trade. There was a good deal of illegal trading going on which the Law was intended to check and the money derived from this particular Law was originally meant to be used for the special protection of produce.

The President said that the license fees paid went into General Revenue from which the police were paid. They had the further protection of the "Authorized Persons" provided to prevent larceny of agricultural products. However, the whole matter had been already dealt with by the Society in a report made and this would be dealt with by the Legislative Council after the war.

Mr. Martin also spoke on the lack of supervision of produce buyers by the police.

Mr. Watson asked what had been done in the matter of the revised form of Logwood Permit recommended by the Board.

The President said that on reference to the Law Officers of the Crown, it was found that the Governor in Privy Council had no power to make the alterations, and it would require first a revision of the Law by the Legislative Council to give him that power.

(c) *Economic Conference of Allies.*—The Secretary said that as directed at previous meeting, he had sent a printed copy of the Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies relative to the Economic Conference of the Allies to each member of the Board for his consideration.

Mr. Craig said the matter was a very important one, and he thought a special committee might be appointed to deal with it.

The President said the question involved was too large a one for them to discuss that day, and he thought the matter might first be referred to a committee, as Mr. Craig had suggested.

Mr. Graham asked whether there would be time for a Committee to consider the proposals and then for them to send forward recommendations to the conference.

The President said Mr. Graham might rest assured that they would be in time. Mr. Bonar Law had pointed out that for the present the Empire would have to confine its legislation to the successful prosecution of the war.

After further discussion, it was decided to refer the matter to a committee, and the President nominated the following gentlemen:—Mr. A. W. Farquharson, sugar; Mr. Craig, cocoa; Mr. Martin, coffee and pimento; Sir John Pringle, bananas; Mr. Muirhead, citrus fruit; Mr. Cork, logwood and general industries, and Mr. Stedman, coconuts.

Mr. Farquharson suggested that the committee might collaborate with other societies, such as the Chamber of Commerce. This was agreed to.

The President said the matter would also be brought up in the Legislative Council next year, and would be discussed there.

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Press stating that this important matter was under the consideration of a Special Committee representing the various industries of the Island, and invite suggestions, and that the collaboration of other Societies interested be invited. When the day of meeting was fixed he was to invite

all interested to attend. Wednesday the 17th January, at 11.40 a.m. was suggested.

(d) Importation of Sulphate of Copper. The Secretary read letter from the C.S.O., No. 11315-16634 of the 18th November, 1916, replying to his letter which he had written at the direction of the Board asking that Sulphate of Copper be stocked by the Department of Agriculture for the use of planters, and enclosing Memo from the Director of Agriculture pointing out that Copper Sulphate or Bluestone was an article of agricultural commerce that had been dealt with by merchants in Jamaica for many years and unless it was shown that large planters were unable to obtain this substance on a wholesale basis through their agents in London or New York, or that local firms were making an inordinate trade-profit on retail supplies, he the Director submitted that it would be wrong for the Government to interfere with established trade in the matter.

Mr. Cousins also drew attention to the fact that the proceeds of sales were not returned to the Department to reimburse purchases, but fell to General Revenue, and that his vote for Insecticides had already been fully pledged.

Mr. Simmonds, who had raised the question before, still thought that something ought to be done to have the product brought within easy reach of the planters at a reasonable rate and more particularly the small planter who was recommended to use Bordeaux Mixture should be facilitated in getting the Sulphate of Copper for trial at first. Afterwards when the small men got into the way of using what was recommended, they could get supplies for themselves.

Most of the members felt that Mr. Simmonds' contention was reasonable and that the Department might stock Sulphate of Copper to supply small orders at any rate, as it was useless recommending the use of a Fungicide when the basis was not easily procurable.

The President said he thought he might be able to arrange for the importation of a supply in such a way that the Department would be reimbursed from the sales made.

The Secretary was instructed to write the Colonial Secretary on the subject.

(e) Pimento Disease in Hanover. The Secretary submitted letter from the C.S.O. on this subject, together with copies of the Entomologist's Reports sent to the Government by the Department of Agriculture. He also read letter to the Board from Mr. E. E. Melville, Great Valley, Hanover, drawing attention to the Director of Agriculture's statement that the scale was due to the occurrence of unprecedented periods of drought, when there had been no drought since 1907, when even then the rainfall was 73.62 inches and the mean average rainfall over 20 years was 103.86 parts, the average crop of pimento being 200 bags. No tree stood periods of drought like pimento, and there was no disease in the districts where there had been drought. He thought it the duty of the Government to let the Entomologist continue his investigations in the matter in the interests of the country. So far as Great Valley property was concerned, it would pay for treatment of the trees.

Mr. Martin said the pimento industry was the mainstay of many districts, and circulated money among the people for picking the crop when there were few or no other industries in such districts to give labour. He thought no efforts should be spared to enquire into this

disease and find methods of preventing its spread. The disease or scale could not be due to dry weather.

Mr. A. W. Farquharson said that what struck him in all the circulated reports on any subject was that the Director of Agriculture arrogated to himself the right of revising the reports, and sometimes even of suppressing altogether; and of giving definite pronouncements on diseases and pests without reference to the investigation and reports of the Officers who were specialists each in his own branch. In this instance of Pimento Scale, the Entomologist had only made preliminary investigation, and had actually not yet made any pronouncement as to the cause and cure. Yet the Director of Agriculture said the whole thing was due to drought when these trees had never been affected by drought.

The Secretary was instructed to write the Colonial Secretary asking him to put the matter before His Excellency that arrangements might be made for the Entomologist to continue his investigations.

Letters from the C.S.O. were submitted as follows:—

(a) *Cable Quotations for Citrus Fruit.*

No. 15232-18321/16. 7th December, 1916.

Enclosing Memo from the Direct West India Cable Co., which stated as follows:—

"In reply to your letter No. 13917/16683, dated the 8th inst., I have to say that the matter of market prices of Oranges and Grapefruit in New York, as reported by this Company daily, has received the attention of our General Superintendent, who has just visited New York. The quotations now given are for Jamaica Fruit, and it is respectfully requested that we be informed whether the quotations as they now stand are satisfactory, and if not, in what respect they are incorrect."

The Secretary stated that the quotations appeared now to be clearly stated, and he had informed the Local Superintendent of this.

(b) *Tree Planting in the Port Royal Mountains.*

No. 15094/17008/16. 5th December, 1916.

"I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter C.S.O. No. 87, dated the 7th ultimo, forwarding a further report on the subject of Tree Planting in the Port Royal Mountains by Mr. A. P. Hanson, Agricultural Instructor for St. Andrew, and to say that His Excellency is glad to observe the satisfactory progress that is being made in the matter.

2. I am to request that you will be so good as to forward in future half yearly reports on the progress of the scheme say on the 1st of December and 1st June of each year instead of the quarterly reports asked for in the letter from this Office, No. 3307/18708/13 dated the 24th March, 1914."

Sgd. G. M. WORTLEY,
Actg. Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary explained that for three years at the request of the Government there had been a Tree Planting campaign carried on in the Port Royal Mountains by the Instructor Mr. Hanson, the young trees—cedar, mahoe, mahogany, orange and grapefruit—being supplied free by Hope Gardens. Reports had hitherto been made to the Instructors Committee quarterly and sent on to the Governor.

Sugar Industry Committee. Two letters were submitted from the C.S.O., Nos. 15384-18618 of the 11th December, 1916, and 15801-19279 of the 20th December, 1916, stating that the Secretary of State for the Colonies, had at the request of His Excellency, approved of Dr. Watts, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, visiting Jamaica to advise on the question of the establishment of central factories in Jamaica, and that Dr. Watts had intimated by telegraph that he hoped to be able to leave about the middle or end of January next, transport being available.

Mr. Cork said the Committee learnt with pleasure of the coming arrival of Dr. Watts, and he was sure that the services of the Imperial Commissioner would be very helpful in connection with the work of the Sugar Committee. His Excellency the Governor should be thanked for his efforts in securing the services of Dr. Watts. (Hear, hear.)

The matter of arranging to receive Dr. Watts was referred to the Sugar Industry Permanent Committee.

Progress Report. The Secretary submitted Report as follows: —

I beg to report that a Meeting of the Sugar Industry Committee and of the officials collaborating with them was held on Thursday, 7th December, 1916, at 11.30 a.m.

The Chairman Mr. Cork was unfortunately absent through illness, and apologies for absence were submitted from Hon. D. A. Corinaldi, J. H. Levy and A. A. Fleming, Messrs. W. H. Farquharson A. C. L. Martin and G. P. Deve[illegible], and also from the Attorney General and the Treasurer.

There were present: Mr. R. Craig, who was unanimously asked to preside, His Lordship Bishop Collins, Sir John Pringle, K.C.M.G., Hons. W. Cote Kerr, H. A. L. Simpson, D. S. Gideon, T. J. Bertram, C.M.G., C. W. Hewitt, F. R. Evans, Guy S. Ewen and H. Cork; Messrs. A. W. Farquharson, James Dougall, Ernest Kerr, John McPhail, A. L. Keeling, A. W. Douet, George Murray, J. Guiterrez, Walter Woolfscroft, Henry Holgate, and the Secretary, John Barclay.

Mr. Farquharson, in the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Cork, presented two reports from the Sub-Committee appointed at the previous meeting, which Sub-Committee consisted of the Hons. P. C. Cork, H. A. L. Simpson, the Attorney General, the Treasurer, and Mr. A. W. Farquharson. The first report dealt with the question of the reorganization of the Savings Bank and the problem of finance in connection with the development of the Island generally.

After discussion and an amendment by which it was suggested that provision might be made to assist in the erection of any Industrial Factories for dealing with the agricultural products of the Island, the report was unanimously approved.

The second report dealing specifically with the Sugar Industry and making suggestions as to legislation which is considered advisable, was also adopted.

It was resolved that the Chairman of the Committee should be requested to forward the reports to His Excellency the Governor asking for his permission for the necessary Laws to be drafted subject to approval by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

It was also resolved that copies of the reports should be forwarded to the Secretary of the West India Committee, it being understood that the Committee was willing to give all assistance possible in the matter.

It was resolved that the Sub-Committee previously appointed, should continue in existence for the purpose of representing the Committee in any communications with the Government, and also for the purpose of communicating with the West India Committee.

It was resolved that the following Committee be appointed for the purpose of drafting any Laws that might be necessary. Th Attorney General, Hon. H. A. L. Simpson, Messrs. H. I. C. Bowen

Lewis Ashenheim, and A. W. Farquharson.

The meeting then adjourned.

JOHN BARCLAY, Secretary.

Authorized Persons. (*a*) *Report of the Meeting of Special Committee.*—

The special committee appointed by the Governor to consider matters in connection with the Law dealing with authorized persons in order to make the working of the Law clear to all concerned, met on Friday, 8th December, at 10 o'clock. Present: The Hon. Attorney-General, presiding, His Hon. Mr J. V. Leach, the Inspector General, Messrs H. I. C. Brown, Hector Josephs, and the Secretary, Mr. John Barclay.

The Secretary reported that Mr A. W. Farquharson, the representative of the Society on the Committee, could not be present as Friday was the day he visits Vere, but that day suited the other members best.

The Secretary Submitted letters and resolutions from various Branch Societies which detailed the difficulties experienced by their authorized persons in attempting to carry out the duties they had undertaken, and also some complaints regarding the rendering of the Law in connection with the Police and Clerk of Courts, together with some suggestions as to what articles might be included in the scope of the Law, etc.

The Committee considered all these in detail and gave their judgment.

I have not had time yet to write the report in full for submission to the Committee again, but I can say that after submission to the Governor, for approval, it is proposed to set out the queries and replies in the form of a little pamphlet for guidance, and I think this should prove useful.

It is not thought that any revisions of the Law will be necessary, but that the various difficulties, contradictions and mistakes will be met by clear instructions from the Attorney General to the police, Clerk of the Courts and Magistrates as to the procedure to be observed.

It was the opinion of the Committee that the Authorized Persons can be made a most valuable aid to the country in checking theft of agricultural produce, but their duties what they can do and cannot do—must be made clear, not only to the Authorized persons, but the police, etc.

The pamphlets to be issued should make a valuable reference for all parties.

JOHN BARCLAY, Secretary.

The report was concurred in.

(*b*) The Secretary submitted Return of Arrests from the Inspector General of Police for the quarter ending 30th September, 1916. He was directed to publish this in the JOURNAL

Cocoe Rot. - Letter was read from the Hon. H. Cork, Park Mount, Port Antonio, of date 5th December 1916, as follows —

"Some time ago I took the trouble to ascertain from the peasantry in the Parish of Portland their troubles with reference to growing ground cocoes as an under-crop for bananas.

They are reduced now to one variety of cocoe, the others being diseased. I forwarded a sample of the diseased cocoe and wrote correspondence about the matter and duly received a reply that the name of the disease was so and so, but nothing has been done to help the peasantry in the endeavour to ascertain how this disease may be prevented and eradicated.

Since the correspondence mentioned, I have neither seen nor heard of any steps being taken to help protect this most useful crop for the peasantry, and I hope this matter will receive the attention of your Board particularly the members of the Minor Products Committee, and steps be taken to ascertain all particulars in the matter, which is a very serious one particularly in the parish of Portland."

Sgd. HENRY CORK

The Secretary said that the Hon. H. Cork had sent him copy of his correspondence with the Microbiologist in 1912, and he had published this in the JOURNAL for November, 1912, with the Microbiologist's report on one form of cocoe rot. The matter had at the time been brought to the attention of the Instructor for the district and the Branch Societies. He had again communicated with the two Instructors in E. and W. Portland, who had put the matter before some of their Branches, and he was informed that both forms of cocoe rot were quite well known and that in most parts of Portland the settlers were not confined to one variety of cocoe. He would, however, see that the subject was again discussed and find if cocoe rot was more prevalent or not than it had been in 1912.

Bete Rouge. The Secretary read letter from Hon. H. Cork, of date 27th November, 1916, on the subject of Bete Rouge in Portland, addressed to the President of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, as follows:

"I must apologize for again calling your attention to an insect pest that is liable to increase in Jamaica.

On the 15th September last I wrote a letter (copy enclosed) and on the 18th September last I received a reply from the Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society (copy enclosed) saying he knew nothing about the insect.

I have now received a further letter from your Secretary dated 22nd November (copy enclosed) in which he informs me that the Entomologist has written a good article on the insect.

It would be rather interesting to know how a gentleman who professes that he has no knowledge of the subject is able to pass an opinion as to the value of the article written on it."

(Sgd.) HENRY CORK,
M.L.C., St. Thomas.

The Secretary said if this letter had not been addressed to the President and members of the Board he would have considered it too trifling to put before the Board. He had replied to Mr. Cork, that while he had known nothing of the subject himself at the time, he had since had the benefit of a talk with the Entomologist on the subject, and had to read the latter's article and peruse two proofs of it. He was surely therefore in a position to say that the article was a good one.

The letter was tabled.

Orange Oil.—Extract was read from a letter from Mr. H. E. Lewis of Newport Manchester of date 17th November, 1916, as follows:—

"Would not the Agricultural Society take steps to have a Law framed under which persons could be dealt with and punished who tamper with and adulterate this article? A short time ago a man agreed to sell me some oil produced from fruit off his own trees and took from me a machine and bottles. He some time after brought me 2 bottles of oil which I at once observed was adulterated and thereupon refused to pay for the oil, and took the bottles with contents to the Police and Clerk of Courts in Mandeville with a view to having an action brought against this man. These authorities, however, informed me there was at present no Law under which an action could be brought against the individual in question, and that all I could do was to return the man his oil.

It appears to me a great pity that so important an industry should be thus tampered with, and I think the time opportune for a Law to be passed whereby persons caught tampering with, or adulterating orange oil, can be punished, by way of protecting the industry and those persons who deal in this article."

Messrs. Martin and Muirhead urged that police action should be taken in such cases as the industry was an important one to foster.

The President said he was quite in sympathy with the representations made. He had only that morning seen a report where in one case cottonseed oil was used, in another case kerosene oil, as adulterants.

Mr. Farquharson suggested that the Government should be written to recommending that a return (as well as all the papers) should be obtained from the police from time to time of all cases where complaints were made of adulteration of orange oil and no action taken. This would keep the police on the *qui vive*.

This suggestion was adopted.

Half Yearly General Meeting.—The Secretary submitted a list of items for the Half Yearly General Meeting, some of which the Board considered should not be placed on the Agenda, being matters either discussed and dealt with as far as possible on subsequent occasions, or not within the province of the Society.

The Secretary said permission had again been kindly granted by the Rev. Wm. Graham, and the meeting would be held at the Collegiate Hall at 11.40 a.m. on Thursday, the 18th January.

Food Crops.—The Secretary said he had circularized the Branches and Instructors asking for reports on the prospects of the food crops and plants in their localities. In nearly every case the reply was that there was almost sure to be a shortage in seed and plants and in many cases in foodstuffs for the spring. The peas and beans distributed in the Fall suffered severely in the heavy weather. He asked for authority to import peas and beans for sale to meet the likely demand for planting.

The Secretary was directed to make importations of peas and beans for planting purposes if necessary.

Mr. Martin thought that in view of this shortage the export of grain and other foodstuffs to Central America and the Canal Zone, which he understood was still being allowed, should not be permitted.

The President said from time to time he got returns from the Collector General with regard to the export of foodstuffs from the island. The potatoes, etc., shipped from Jamaica to Panama were for the purpose of feeding Jamaicans there, and were of such small extent that they were not worth interfering with.

War Gifts.—The Secretary submitted letter from the Secretary of the West India Committee acknowledging receipt of the 33rd shipment of War Gifts on October 23rd, and reporting on the distribution.

The Secretary also reported that since last Meeting he had despatched the 35th, 36th and 37th shipments, details of which as usual had been published in the newspapers and would be published in the JOURNAL.

He further submitted several letters of acknowledgment of gifts from French and British Warships in the harbour. During the month 88 boxes of Oranges and Grapefruit had been sent as gifts to the Warships.

Applications for Affiliation.—Applications for affiliation were submitted from:—

(a) Somerton (St. James)
(b) Gordon Town (St. Andrew)
(c) Free Hill (St. Mary)

(d) Clapham (St. Ann)
(e) Nonsuch (Portland.)

As the Instructors Committee had not yet reported on these, the question of affiliation was held over.

Instructors Reports, etc. The Reports and Itineraries of the Instructors for the month of November were submitted and as usual referred to the Instructors Committee.

The Secretary said that the Committee had referred to the Board the question of the Instructors helping in recruiting for the 5th Con-Contingent as they had done for the previous Contingents. The Chairman of the Recruiting Committee had asked him to mention this.

It was resolved that the Instructors should assist in any way they could.

New Members. - The following new members were elected:

Ernest J. Hofius, Belize, British Honduras; Dr. F. F. Brown, 70 East Queen Street, Kingston; Mr. C. A. F. Stewart, Mrs. C. A. F. Stewart, Walkerswood; Wm. H. Wood, Deeside, Bog Wak; Major C. L. Knowles, R.G.A., Port Royal; Lieut. R. B. Barker, R.G.A., Port Royal; Lieut. D. A. Campbell, Port Royal; and R. J. Moore, Port Limon.

The Meeting adjourned until Wednesday, the 17th January, 1917, at 2 p.m., the day and hour being altered as is customary to leave the usual date and hour free for the Half Yearly Meeting.

:o:

The following letters from Mrs A. W. Douet was read at the above meeting of the Board of Management:—

COMPTON,
Halfway Tree.

To the Secretary of the
Agricultural Society
Kingston

Dear Sir,

As representative of the Agricultural Society on the Comfort's Committee for the Contingent, I am desired by that Committee to approach the Agricultural Society on behalf of a donation to the Comfort's fund for the purchase of wool and materials to make mufflers and pyjama suits, these latter are required for the use of the sick on board ship. May I ask you to lay my letter before the Board o Management at their meeting today.

I am dear Sir,
Yours truly,
ALICE M. DOUET.

The Secretary will receive any donations that members might be disposed to send and forward the amount to Mrs. Douet.

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Return of Arrests Made by "Authorized Persons" Under the Praedial Larceny Law During the Quarter ended 30th September, 1916.

Parish.	Names of "Authorized Persons" who prosecuted.	Name of Defendant.	Offence for which Prosecuted.	Remarks.
Kingston	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
St. Andrew	John Simons	Clementina Edward	Unlawful possession of 9 pods of cocoa	Discharged
St. Thomas	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Portland	Thomas Williamson	Georg Duncan	Praedial Larceny of Yams	Discharged.
do	Walter Beckford	Edward Douglas	Unlawful possession of Breadfruits	Discharged
do	do	Rufus Buckley	.. ..	Discharged
do	David Molloy	Cecil Cobran	.. .. .. Bananas	1 day's imprisonment.
St. Mary	Robert Jackson	Edward Carter	.. .. Cocoanuts	6 months H. L. G. P.
do	Triscillian Tucker	Thomas Barnett	.. ..	Discharged
do	Enphrata Walker	Malcolm Livingston	.. .. .. Tobacco	3 months H. L. D. P.
do	Edward Jones	Samuel Durrant	.. .. .. Cocoanuts	30 days H. L. D. P.
do	Edward Jones	Isaiah Moodie	.. .. .. Cocoes	Discharged
do	Enphrata Walker	Alexander Livingston	.. .. .. Cocoa pods	Discharged.
do	Edward Jones	Joseph Miller	.. .. .. Sugar Cane	Imprisoned until the rising of the Court
do	Walter Henry	Mardriana Marshall	.. .. .. Cocoanuts	Withdrawn.
do	Walter Henry	Franeella Brown	.. ..	Bound Over
do	Amos Duncan	Wilfred Jackson	.. .. .. Cocoa-pods	5 months H. L. D. P.
do	Wilfred Wildman	Poochong Coolie	.. .. .. Cocoes	Discharged
do	Samuel Morrison	Hubert Grant	.. ..	6 months H. L. G. P.
do	Alexander Blissett	Cecil Swanson	.. .. .. Cocoa pods	Discharged.
do	Timothy Bonner	Cecil Swanson	.. ..	7 days H. L. Lock-up.
do	Timothy Bonner	Justin Daley	.. ..	do
do	Joseph Duncan	Charles Leckie	.. ..	Discharged
St. Ann	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Trelawny	Alexander Foster	John Jones	.. .. .. Sugar canes	30 days H. L. D. P.
do	Wilfred Castle	Azariah Dobson	.. .. .. Cocoanuts	5 months H. L. D. P.
St. James	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hanover	Joseph Durrant	Samuel Mowatt	.. .. .. Breadfruits	1 d[illegible]s H. L. D. P.
do	Benjamin Crooks	Josiah Patterson	.. .. .. Yams	Disch[illegible]
Westmoreland	Theodore Hamilton	Samuel Clayton	.. .. .. Sugar canes	[illegible] L. D. P.

RETURN OF ARRESTS MADE BY "AUTHORIZED PERSONS" UNDER THE PRAEDIAL LARCENY LAW DURING THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1916.

Parish.	Names of "Authorized Persons" who prosecuted.	Name of Defendant.	Offence for which Prosecuted.	Remarks.
St. Elizabeth	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Manchester	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Clarendon	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
St. Catherine	Jonathan Wilks	Joseph Hobson	Unlawful possession of Coconuts	Dismissed.
do	Louis Hamilton	David Anderson	do do Yams	Discharged.
do	James Valentine	Walter Brown	do do Yampies	Bound Over

Inspector-General's Office,
Kingston, 2nd December, 1916.

A. E. KERSHAW,
Inspector General of Police.

DISEASES OF VEGETABLES

The following is a report by the Government Microbiologist, recently forwarded through the Director of Agriculture.

Report on leaf spots of Okra and Tomato. Samples were forwarded on the 5th inst. by the Secretary Jamaica Agricultural Society. They were received on the 9th inst.

Okra.—All the leaves were stated to be affected: they drop off one by one and the plants fail. A fungus was fruiting abundantly on both sides of the leaves on angular brown spots. It was a species of *Cercospora.* Spots due to this genus become at times destructive when plants become susceptible to attack at some stage of growth owing to unfavourable temperature and moisture conditions.

Badly attacked plants should be burnt. In less severe cases spray with bordeaux or burgundy mixture of half strength.

Tomato Leaves.—Only the lower leaves were reported to be affected. The spots were due to *Cladosporium fulvum* the fungus of the so-called leaf rust. This fungus may be destructive in wet cold weather. Withered leaves should be removed as far as practicable (in garden culture) and burnt. Spray with half strength bordeaux or burgundy or 1 in 50 commercial lime sulphur: a little lime can be added to the latter which is more easily washed off than the copper mixtures.

(Sgd.) S. F. Ashby,
Microbiologist.

—:o:—

INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL.

The cheapest source of alcohol at the present time, we think, is from sugar cane. The alcohol is entirely made from a waste product after the production of sugar and so uses up no form of foodstuff. Many are anxious over the price of rum and think it will not be wanted in the markets of Europe shortly, but if the manufacture of whiskey and heavy beers, which require human food barley and corn for their production is, prohibited in the United Kingdom so that food supplies may be conserved, rum could not be included as it is a by-product, made from the waste in the manufacture of sugar. There is still, however, the scarcity of shipping freight to be taken into account, and it may be that only essentials will be allowed to be shipped to the United Kingdom. We should still then have alcohol for use for industrial purposes. A correspondent sends us the following note on the subject:—

"It may happen that owing to shortage of shipping facilities, shipments of Rum to England are likely to be much delayed. Rum is not a necessity. It is, however, a valuable by-product and perhaps if some of our sugar estates were to convert a portion of their molasses into "Silent Spirit" or in other words "Industrial Alcohol" another and quicker market would be opened. The present enormous demand for Industrial Alcohol for Explosive, Dye and Chemical Work is more than absorbing the output from the European Distillers which have previously depended on grain and potatoes as their raw material. This raw material (from grain and potatoes) has been very expensive and to the best of our knowledge the by-product of cane can replace these satisfactorily and cheaply."

The following notes on "Denatured Alcohol" may give some readers some new ideas on the subject:

Denatured alcohol is simply alcohol which has been so treated as to spoil it for use as a beverage or medicine, and prevent its use in any manner except for industrial purposes. Denaturing can be accomplished in many ways. In England a mixture suitable for industrial purposes, but unfit for any other use, is made by mixing 90 per cent. of ethyl alcohol (alcohol made from grain, potatoes, beets, etc.) with 10% of methyl or "wood alcohol." In Germany some of the other denaturants are camphor, chloroform, iodoform, ethyl bromide, benzine, castor oil, etc.

Although it has only about half the heating power of kerosene or gasolene, gallon for gallon, yet it has many valuable properties which may enable it to compete successfully, in spite of its lower fuel value. In the first place, it is very much safer. Alcohol has a tendency to simply heat the surrounding vapours and produce currents of hot gases which are not usually brought to high enough temperature to inflame articles at a distance. It can be easily diluted with water, and when so diluted, no more than one-half, it ceases to be inflammable. Hence it may readily be extinguished, while burning gasolene, by floating on the water, simply spreads its flame when water is applied to it.

When alchohol is used for lighting purposes, the general estimate of its value gives it about double the power of kersosene, a gallon of alcohol lasting as long as 2 gallons of the oil. When used for street lighting, alcohol vapour burns like gas with an incandescent flame in a hooded flame covered by a Welsback mantle. This light rivals the arc light in brilliancy, and requires to be shaded to adapt it to the endurance of the human eye. Alcohol can also be employed in the same manner as gas in cooking stoves.

A bushel of maize (56 lbs.) would yield about 5 U.S. gallons of proof spirit, or 2½ gallons of absolute alcohol. One gallon of sugar molasses would yield about four-tenths of a gallon of alcohol. One bushel of sweet potatoes (55 lbs.) would give about half a gallon of absolute alcohol, and cassava might be expected to give a similar quantity.

Alcohol could be used for driving gas engines for ordinary running, but it has not been found suitable for running motor-cars, as it has not the flexibility of petrol, such as is required for frequent starting, and running at slow speed. The difficulty was reported to have been overcome in Germany by the addition of a certain amount of benzol (benzene), which is a by-product of coal distillation, and which could be produced in any country making coal gas. Alcohol, however, could be used in certain classes of lamps, and it would form one of the cheapest of fuels and sources of light.

———:o:———

SUGAR.

The following information about the Sugar Industry in Cuba will be of interest:—

Statistics published showed that of the 188 sugar mills grinding during the past crop season, 70 belong to Cubans and 64 to Americans.

The Americans as a rule do not possess lands individually, but collectively in the form of great trusts, syndicates or companies,

and that these companies largely employ foreign help, at least in important positions. The stockholders of these foreign corporations are themselves foreigners, and not interested in the country where their property is located, except to receive dividends which are spent outside of Cuba.

It is admitted that the sugar business is being lost to the Cubans, just as the tobacco business has also been lost. While foreigners are gaining control of the sugar business, yet they are not gaining control of the land to the same extent, for four and three-quarter million acres out of a total of thirty million acres in the whole republic, or say 15 per cent., belong to foreigners.

The following table gives by Provinces the production of sugar in bags of 320 pounds each for the current year.

	No. of Factories.	Total Production.	Production per Factory.
Pinar del Rio	7	302,183	43,169
Habana	19	2,576,235	135,591
Matanzas	41	4,518,114	110,198
Santa Clara	70	6,527,871	93,255
Camaguey	14	2,356,596	168,328
Oriente	37	4,862,408	131,416
Total	188	21,143,407	112,465

The smallest factories are those of Pinar del Rio, Matanzas and Santa Clara, which, together with Habana, compose the oldest sugar districts of the island. The factories of the latter province average high owing to the fact that several of them have recently been enlarged and smaller properties have been consolidated into larger. The new factories of Camaguey and Oriente are practically all large ones, and the average for Oriente would be much higher except for a number of old factories in the neighbourhood of Guantanamo, which is also one of the oldest sugar districts of the island.

The following table gives number of factories and the production of sugar by nationality of the owners of the factories:

	Number of Factories.	Production Sacks.	Average per Factory.	Per cent. of total production.
Cuban	70	5,057,075	72,244	24
American	64	10,773,255	168,332	51
Spanish	42	4,396,484	104,678	21
All others	12	916,651	76,387	4
	188	21,143,407	112,465	

In the table below is shown the nationality of the owners of the factories in the different provinces:

	Cuban.	American.	Spanish.	All others.
Pinar del Rio	3	2	1	1
Habana	3	1	8	1
Matanzas	15	15	11	
Santa Clara	33	15	18	4
Camaguey	6	[illegible]		
Oriente	7	20	4	6
Total	[illegible]	64	42	12

These statistics show that although the Americans own but 64 of the 188 factories, or say one-third of the total produced in 1916, they yet were responsible for half of the total output of sugar. The figures show that American producers are putting up large factories, the output per factory being about double the average output of factories owned by Cubans.

It is only during the present year that the influence of the Americans in the sugar business has been so predominant. In 1906 they owned but 30 of the 181 factories in operation at that time; in 1911 this number had increased to 41 and in 1915 to 44. During the past year the Cuba Cane Sugar Corporation was formed for the purpose of entering the cane sugar business, and to date, according to Himely's records, it has purchased eighteen factories, the total output of which during the last crop was 3,661,631 sacks, or 17 per cent of the total Cuban crop. This company as a rule invested only in centrals having a large output, and that is the reason why in the tables given above the factories owned by Americans have outputs that average so much higher than those owned by other nationalities.

While a few Cubans object to foreigners getting control of such a large part of the sugar industry, yet on the whole capital is encouraged to come to Cuba, and judging from the past it has been given proper guarantees and protection, and has been able to earn a satisfactory interest.

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RICE INDUSTRY

We asked Mr. R. C. Somerville, Agricultural Instructor for Southern Westmoreland and Hanover, to write a report on the Rice Industry in his district because owing to the high price of imported rice (and this food is an essential.) proprietors in other parts have been interesting themselves in planting some, (and more will follow), so have desired information on the subject. We know of trial cultivations in St. Mary and St. Thomas Ye East.

Some "dry land" rice is being raised in lower St. Andrew. This used to be commonly grown in Clarendon, but has gone out of cultivation in recent years, except for a small patch or two, still grown by one family. The article of course refers to swamp or "wet land" rice:—

I beg to submit the following report on the rice industry. This report is the outcome of the two days, in the rice growing districts, making careful investigation direct from the most successful growers of the crop.

The following questions which I have formulated to guide the report are herein answered:—

1. What is the work necessary to prepare (a) Morass, (b) Ponds (c) River bed lands for the planting of rice?
2. What is the cost in each case?
3. What is the process of sowing [illegible] new field, [illegible] old one?
4. What is the average crop per acre on lands in question 1?
5. What improvements are necessary in our methods to ensure a more satisfactory yield?
6. What kinds of rice are grown and what are their merits?
7. What proportion of clean rice is got from dahn?
8. What prices are paid for dahn and clean rice respectively?
9. The approximate area under cultivation and extent to which industry is capable of development?

1. The morass lands are the safety valves for the surplus water of rivers on low lying lands that otherwise would do damage to the land and towns lying at their mouths. The overflow of these rivers spreads out over broad areas covering the lands from Spring to the end of Autumn; most of these lands are dry from the beginning of December to the end of March. Weeds and bush grow vigorously over them and has to be carefully hoed off. In all kinds of lands this is necessary. This work should be done in March and if necessary again in April so as to insure a thoroughly clean surface. The grass and rubbish taken off should be utilized in banking up the edges of the field so as to have control over the amount of water in the plot. The difference in the cultivation of the kinds of lands mentioned, is in the necessity for establishing this control in the water. On a river bed, by the erection of suitable embankments or dykes one has a perfect control over the water, whereas in a pond where the water is dependent on the rainfall, excessive rains may put so much water in as to completely submerge the plants and *drown* the crop. This has actually happened this year to over 30 acres of fine rice with disastrous results. Where drains can be made to relieve the pond of its surplus water, this danger can be averted. A case in point: A pond on the Clifton property near Grange Hill covers over 3 acres of land. About ½ of it has hitherto been found too deep to plant rice, and the coolie-man who rented it, used to grow successfully the other half. He left last year, and a new coolie-man rented the pond. More enterprising than his predecessor, he obtained leave to cut a canal leading into a nearby gully, and by putting a suitable flood gate he obtained such control over the flow, that he planted the whole pond and has reaped a very large harvest.

2. The cost the first year of planting will be much higher than in subsequent years. Weeding and levelling as far as possible 4/- per sq. ch. and from 2 to 4 shillings to build embankments, the smaller price in a pond or morass and the larger in a river bed, the perfect control of the water in the last case being obviously more necessary. This will make the cost of cultivation £4, which with £2 for the establishment of the crop will cost about £6 per acre.

3. In no crop grown in Jamaica is the selection of seeds such an important factor as in rice. All the planters of rice know this, and if they exercised the same care in all crops, the benefits would be manifold.

The coolies call the selected seeds *[illegible]*, and they only take it from a plant field not from a ratoon field. The best heads of rice are taken and from these the largest seeds are selected for planting.

The *beah* is so well selected that only about 5% is found good enough. No one would think of planting seeds from a ratoon field. This is most important as a safeguard against what is known as *drop rice evil*. Unless the seeds are the most vigorous obtainable, the plants develop a weakness of the stem and are unable to hold the rice on, until it is properly harvested; the least wind will shake the seeds off, making a loss to the planter for the present, and an expensive pest for him in the next crop. For this reason an old rice piece is weeded three times before replanting so as to get rid of all seedlings that have sprung from fallen seed. Occasionally it happens under very favourable conditions as would exist on a field covered with an alluvial deposit by the overflow of a river, that the entire crop is of the best quality and all the seeds are suitable as *beah*; then a new sowing is unnecessary for one year only, and a new planting must be made the third year. The price of *beah* is double that of commercial rice. The seedlings are planted out in April, May and June, in new and fertile lands, 18 inches apart, and in inferior lands 12 inches apart; so as to prevent overcrowding. Nothing else is done after the crop is once established until the crop comes in, unless the manipulation of the water, if the planter has control over the flow.

As I have already said, all seedlings growing from fallen rice must be taken up to avoid *drop rice*. If these seedlings are even very good and new ones are planted among them they will come in some weeks before the new plants, and as there can be only one reaping, the seeds will drop off before the whole field is ready for reaping. In the third year it is safest to plant a field from seedlings grown in a nursery away from the place to be planted. A plot of land will continue to yield crops for twenty years.

4. The yield differs with the conditions of soil and season. In a good year like this, where control could be had over the water, as much as 100 qts. to the sq. ch. has been reaped, giving a total of 40 bags to the acre. A good average yield would be about one-half of this although the grower very often gets no more than 18. The largest crops are from plant fields on inundated lands with periodical deposits of plant food.

5. The cultivation of rice is only done at present by small men, consequently only small pieces are planted; it is therefore unreasonable to expect any one to expend large sums of money on water control, but if large tracts of rice were grown it would be a good investment to make, as it would serve the planter for years. Rice must not be checked in its growth by a lack of sufficient water and a system whereby the field can be drained or flooded at the planter's will would be a safe insurance against poor crops.

6. Kinds of rice. There are several kinds of rice grown here, but I shall only deal with those that give most satisfactory results.

(a) Early white varieties, Sampat, Ballam, Bassmutti.

(b) Late white varieties, Dover, Rhajul.

(c) Brown or black rice.

The early white varieties are fit for food in October, while the late ones are reaped in November. The difference between them being in the size of the grains and the prolificness of the variety. The Dover and Bassmutti are very popular on account of their large grains and heavy bearing qualities. The Ballam and Rhajul are a smaller grains but are of a finer eating quality and whiteness. Black rice is locally known as "coolie rice" and is chiefly eaten by themselves.

7. The quantity of clean rice depends on two factors, viz., the fficiency of the machine used and the time the rice is kept before ulling is done.

One factory starts milling as soon as the crop is dry in January, nd gets from 50% to 55% of clean rice.

8. The price of dahn for years has been from 10/- to 12/- per 60 qts. The high price of clean rice this year has caused a rise of rice and now as high as 16/- is being given. Native rice sold at 34/- er bag last year but judging by the price of hand-hulled rice, it will art at 40/- this year.

9. It is difficult to estimate the amount of rice grown in the rish, but I claim to see more of it than any other man, and I give a very approximate estimate of 500 acres. The industry is capable great development. Not 1% of the morass lands are at the disposal those willing and able to plant rice. If the crop was worked all it m. I am sure there would be no need for the large importation of is popular food.

I have gathered some of the above facts from the most successful e growers in the district and am perfectly satisfied that they give correct representation of the industry as it is, and what it can be development.

R. C. SOMERVILLE.

arliston P.O.

Another valued correspondent who knows the industry, writes:—

The varieties of rice chiefly cultivated here are Dover and Ballam. nd should be stamped and cleaned. Rice should be scattered and vered with loose earth. In cases where water is on the land a nursery ould be prepared and seeds should be allowed to grow sufficiently gh to meet the conditions of a stick before being planted; holes are illed with a stick and plants are put in about 12 inches apart. No rther cultivation after the plants are established, except to be kept rly free of weeds.

Seeds are sown between March and April and planted out not er than end July; all depends on the locality.

Crop ready between November and December, if planted out stated above.

About £2,000 would be required for buildings and necessary chinery, of a good and lasting class, at present prices.

—:o:—

TOBACCO.

Keep on planting tobacco seed in carefully prepared beds, even hese have to be watered. In the tobacco growing districts, suckers young plants were very scarce for the December planting as the vy rains in October and November ruined thousands of the young nts, and there has been a demand for these. Then when the rain pped and planting out could take place it has been followed by y dry weather. St. Andrew and Clarendon are the chief places ere tobacco is grown for cigars; the weather has not been favourable

at all in the former; moderately favourable in the latter as there have been showers. But all over some tobacco should be grown.

If we grow plenty of it regularly and continuously there would be an opening for pipe tobacco, for blending if not for export—for home manufacture here. But supplies of this tobacco are very fluctuating. St. Elizabeth is the chief source of supply and in good years tobacco is a solid source of revenue to careful growers there.

Owing to the increasing interest in growing some tobacco and the demand for information how best to prepare nurseries, we reprint some useful hints which originally were prepared by Mr. T. J. Harris, formerly Assistant Superintendent at Hope Gardens, and which stand good to-day with a little revision as to time of planting, as this varies in different districts even close by, according to elevation. The hints are for cigar tobacco; seed for pipe tobacco can be planted all the year round.

NURSERY.

SELECTION OF SITE.—Select an open space quite devoid of shade of any description, and with a south or south-eastern aspect if possible; bill off the bush and spread same out to dry; when dry, rake up and put on one side.

PREPARATION OF BEDS.—Hoe off and clear away the grass, roots, etc., from the space thus cleared, and then proceed lightly to fork up the land, taking care not to turn up the subsoil; when this is done peg out and line off the beds, allowing 3 feet for the bed and 2 feet for the path; now with a spade or shovel lift the loose soil from the 2 feet of the middle of the path, to the depth of 4 or 5 inches, and place it upon the bed and level down with a rake; the paths will then be 2 feet wide and the 3-feet beds will have a long slope on either side.

BURNING.—If the soil be light (sandy or loamy) and not likely to cake down after rain, it will be necessary only to burn, say, 5 or 6 inches of rubbish over the bed, just sufficient burning to destroy caterpillars, etc.; but if the soil is of a heavy, clayey nature the beds must be burned twice, each time spreading about 2 feet of rubbish on the beds; the ashes to be mixed with the surface soil after the first burning, and in either case before the seeds are sown. A seed bed 10 yards long will yield ample seedlings for 1 acre of land.

TIME OF SOWING.—The best time to sow is about the middle of August to October; the suckers would then be ready for planting out from October to December. After this main sowing it is, however, very necessary to sow a few beds every fortnight, for the purpose of keeping up a supply of plants in the event of continued heavy rains interfering with the planting out of those that are just the size for planting; in which case they overgrow and become useless.

SOWING.—Mix the seeds with twice their bulk of fine sand or wood ashes and scatter evenly over the bed (including the long sloping sides) when the air is still; water with a fine-rose watering can, and keep the bed moist until the 'seedlings' are ready for hardening off before planting.

SHADING.—Immediately after sowing, cut some forked sticks and rig up a skeleton arbour about 4 or 5 feet high and lay some long Guinea grass or coco-nut leaves over it, with the stalks pointing to the north; this will secure the points of the grass or coco-nut leaves trailing over on the southern or sunny side.

This covering serves two purposes—it protects the germinating seeds from the sun, and breaks the force of the rain during a heavy shower.

As soon as sufficient seedlings have made their appearance,, remove most of the shade from the arbour: this stops the germination of seeds that can very well wait for a time: the visible seedlings should now be an inch or so apart.

When these have began to develop their third leaf, remove the whole of the shade.

WEEDING. Pick out all weeds as they appear, as, if allowed to get big before they are pulled out, the tobacco seedlings come out with them.

HARDENING OFF. Four weeks after germination the seedlings will begin to pack up together, covering the soil; they should now be gradually hardened off by keeping them on the dry side, watering them only when there is danger of the leaves drooping. In seven weeks from sowing they will be ready for planting out.

DAMPING.—Sometimes a shower of rain will bruise the young plants, inducing 'damping,' in some places: to prevent the spread of the 'damping-off' fungus, apply a dusting of slaked lime to the affected parts of the bed.

SUMMARY. Select a southern aspect for nursery.

Secure the destruction of caterpillars and a loose, uncakable soil by burning. Sow the seeds thinly and evenly.

Keep them moist and protected from sharp sunlight and heavy rain during germination.

Remove the shade gradually as soon as sufficient seeds have been germinated, e.g., an inch apart.

Keep down weed and continue the watering until the plants pack up together. Gradually withhold the water to ensure the seedlings being hard when planted out.

Look out for damp after a shower of rain.

—:o:—

GUNS.

WHAT NOT TO FORGET ABOUT THEM.

Periodically an agitation comes up to get the license for using guns now in existence, reduced. The license is not on the gun, but on the person owning the gun—it is a license to possess one. We would not lower the license but we think the license should be on the gun so that one could serve several people to shoot common pests. Guns are weapons not to be encouraged in peaceful countries.

Don't forget that the front end of a gun is always dangerous, no matter who holds the weapon.

Don't forget to handle guns on the theory that they are always loaded and cocked. It is an excellent working hypothesis.

Don't forget to be very careful in choosing those whom you allow to accompany you on a shooting trip. There is nothing like picking number eights out of your scalp, or digging a few small shots out of your legs, to make you particular in choosing your companions.

Don't trust the lock mechanism of the best gun ever made. When working the lever or bolt of a magazine to transfer a cartridge from magazine to barrel, see that the muzzle points in a safe direction.

Don't put a loaded gun into a cart. Don't put a loaded gun anywhere out of your hands. If you must lay it down or stand it

against a tree or fence, unload the gun. But when you pick it up again assume that it is loaded, and handle it accordingly.

Don't attempt to get over a fence with a loaded gun in your hands. If you insist on keeping the load in your gun while scaling a fence, shove the gun through first, muzzle foremost, and when you are over, pick it up by the stock.

Don't keep a gun loaded when it is not likely to be called into immediate requisition.

Don't shoot at anything simply because it looks as if it might be game. Be absolutely sure that it is game, and nothing else. It might be a cow.

Don't shoot at all unless you know exactly what you are shooting at; something moving in the wood is not game--it is a man or a boy.

Don't shoot with bullets unless you are reasonably sure as to where they are going to stop. A Lee-Metford rifle can carry 2,000 yards.

Don't forget the rule: Never permit a revolver, loaded or unloaded, to point toward yourself, or anyone else—unless you mean to kill. If a friend playfully points an unloaded pistol at you knock him down and get sense into him somehow.

Don't forget for a moment that all fire arms are deadly weapons, that they were made to destroy life, and are fearfully efficient contrivances for that purpose. A moment's forgetfulness may mean sudden death, or a lifetime of haunting horror and misery.

:o:

CITRUS PESTS.

The following is a copy of a report on specimens sent to the Government Entomologist by Mr. Thos. Powell, Agricultural Instructor for Manchester:—

Specimen No. 121. Leaves from Sour Orange Seedling—Porus School Garden.—The leaves are not affected by Scale Insect, but by the Citrus Disease known as Lemon Scab, Sour Scab, or Verrucosis, which is due to the fungus *Cladosporium citri.*

It attacks principally Lemon and Sour Orange, and most Seville seedlings for budding on the nursery are badly affected. As a rule, the scion or bud comes healthy and free of the disease.

Control: Young wood should be protected with a spraying of *LIME SULPHER* (32' Beaume) one to forty, or *BORDEAUX* Mixture 3-3-50.

Note: When in Florida, I saw some cases where the scab had got on to the fruit and rendered it unshapely, scabbed and unmarketable—a grove of grapefruit and Satsume orange near Orlando, remains fresh in my memory. In Jamaica, I recall sweet seedling trees in Chapelton and Mocho attacked, and the fruit was also affected.

Florida has recently been giving serious attention to the trouble as it is present only in certain areas, and it has also called for greater attention owing to its being confused with the most dangerous and pernicious bacterial disease, Citrus Canker, indeed at first Canker was mistaken by State Inspectors for a peculiar form of Scab!!

The sending in of such specimens when met up with, should, therefore, be strongly encouraged among the Instructors.

(Sgd.) ARCHIBALD H. RITCHIE,
Government Entomologist.
9/12/16.

WAR GIFTS.

THIRTY-SEVENTH SHIPMENT.

The following War Gifts have been contributed and despatched to the United Kingdom per the Jamaica Agricultural Society, during the fortnight ending December 18th, 1916:—

Donor and Address.	Gift.	Destination.
The Women's War Committee, St. James per Mrs. D. Mills, Montego Bay	133 Garments	J. Navaux, Esq., Hon. Sec. Belgian Relief Funds, 32 Goswell Rd.. Ldn., E.C.
The Annotto Bay Guild, per Mrs. A. C. Westmoreland, Annotto Bay	1 Case Hospital Bags	Lady Smith-Dorrien, 21 Eaton Place, London E.C.
do	57 Garments, Pillows, etc.	Hon. Work Sec., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Ldn.
do	2 doz. Men's Garments	The Royal Savoy Association for the Relief of British Prisoners of War, 7 Savoy Hill, Strand W.C
Home Workers, Turks and Caicos Islands	18 Mug Covers 308 Comfort Bags	Lady Bland-Sutton, Hon. Sec. British Red Cross Central Work Rooms, Royal Academy, Burlington House, Picadilly, W.
do	15 pkts. Cigarettes	Lady Alexandria Field Force Fund, Hon. Mrs. Sclater, 24A Hill St., Knights-Bridge, London.
St. Thomas in ye Vale Guild, per Mrs. McPhail, Bog Walk	323 Garments, etc.	Mrs. Craig's Hospital, and the nearest Red Cross Hospital to that, Hazle wood, Dumbarton, Scotland.
D. Mills, Montego Bay	4 boxes Grapefruit	Star and Garter Hospital, Richmond.
do	20 boxes Oranges	If possible to any Hospital where Jamaica men are lying
Mrs. W. W. Wynne, Mandeville	8 boxes Grapefruit	212 The Military Hospital, Norbury S.W.
do	8 boxes Grapefruit	Star and Garter Hospital, Richmond.
Hon. H. T. Ronaldson, Newport	5 boxes Grapefruit	Crescent Hospital, Thornton Heath.
do	5 boxes Grapefruit	Australian Hospital, Harefield, Middlesex.
do	10 boxes Grapefruit	Knutsford Home for Officers, Kensington
Robt. Craig, Chapelton	50 boxes Oranges	Secty. Vegetable Products Committee.
Richard Williams, Bethel Town	14 boxes Oranges 3 boxes Grapefruit	The War Hospital, Bath.
Mrs. Miller, St. Margaret's Bay	1 box Grapefruit	The Military Ward, University College, Hospital, Gower St., London, W.C.
do	1 box Grapefruit	The Military Ward, Guy's Hospital, London, E.C.

GENERAL GIFTS.

Hon. Geo. McGrath, Ewarton	12 boxes Oranges 8 boxes Grapefruit
The U. F. Co., Port Antonio	33 boxes Grapefruit 37 boxes Oranges
A. F. G. Ellis, per A. C.	50 boxes Grapefruit

LIBRARY 1363 27 MAY 1958

Westmoreland, Annotto Bay	
Ernest Verley, Kingston	16 boxes Grapefruit
	42 boxes Oranges
Mis Anna Crossley, Bull Bay	2 boxes Oranges
	7 boxes Grapefruit
E. E. C. Hossack, Annotto Bay	6 boxes Grapefruit
Mrs. Miller, St. Margaret's Bay	2 boxes Grapefruit
H. E. Lewis, Newport	5 boxes Oranges
	15 boxes Grapefruit

THIRTH-EIGHTH SHIPMENT.

Fortnight ending 1st January, 1917.

Donor and Address.	Gift.	Destination.
The Daily Chronicle, Kingston	100 Xmas Nos. "Chronicle	Men of B.W.I.R. in Egypt and France.
Mrs. Negus, Race Course	550 Mufflers, Garments, etc., and 104 yards bandages.	Q.M.N.G., London.
Mrs Ronaldson, Newport	1 case Books, Periodicals, etc.	Any Hospital
Mrs. Griffiths, Mandeville	30 boxes Oranges	do
Hon. H. T. Ronaldson, Newport	6 boxes Grapefruit	Knutsford Home for Officers, Kensington.
do		
do	6 boxes Grapefruit	Star and Garter Hospital, Richmond
Mrs. Wynne, Mandeville	8 boxes Grapefruit	do
do	8 boxes Grapefruit	212 Military Hospital, Norbury S.W.

The following have also been contributed, but these were sent at different times to H.M.S. "————", which has been in harbour:—

Donor and Address.	Gift.
W. H. Coke, Mandeville	20 boxes Oranges and Grapefruit
Mrs. Miller, Mandeville	2 barrels Oranges and Grapefruit
A. C. Westmoreland, Annotto Bay	4 barrels Oranges and Grapefruit
Anthony Benn, Spring Hill	1 barrel Oranges and Grapefruit
	1 box Oranges and Grapefruit.
Bath Branch, Bath	1 barrel Oranges and Grapefruit
Birnamwood Branch, Spring Hill	10 boxes Oranges and Grapefruit
H. Stead, Gordon Town	4 bags Oranges and Grapefruit
J. O. Mason, Orange Bay	3 barrels Oranges and Grapefruit
H. W. Lynch, Myersville	1 barrel Oranges and Grapefruit

Most of the barrels were sorted and re-packed into boxes, and the actual total sent to the ship was 58 boxes and 4 barrels.

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HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

SIMPLE RECIPE FOR MAKING COCONUT BUTTER.—Grater the coconut, steep in warm (not too very hot) water and squeeze out milk, stand for some hours, skim off cream and then leave the cream to settle, preferably overnight in a cool place. When solid, this is your coconut butter.

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GINGER BEER.—The following makes a good drink: Bruise well 4 oz. root ginger, and put into a large vessel with 3 lemons or limes sliced, 2 oz. cream of tartar, 4 lb. sugar; cover with 7 quarts of boiling water. Stir till the sugar is dissolved, add 10 quarts cold water, and a slice of toast bread spread with or a half of a yeast cake. In 24 hours it is ready for bottling. It may be put into a cask, or into large jars and bottled. If kept for some time, it becomes slightly intoxicating, but used fresh, it is mild, acid, and refreshing.

JAM PRESERVE COVERS.—There is nothing so handy for covering jam pots as the gummed covers. But if these are not at hand, or have stuck together in a solid board (as they are apt to do if kept lying by) dip rounds of grease-proof paper in milk and press over the bars while hot. It dries perfectly air-tight.

Along with the gummed covers sold. there are always double the number of tissue covers for putting directly on top of the preserve. These dipped in milk can be used for small jars and cups.

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WATER GLASS FLOOR PAINT.—This is certainly invaluable. Smooth off the floor, filling all the cracks with filler or putty and then paint it with a coat of sodium silicate (soluble glass), the same as used to preserve eggs. It will also preserve floors and save the back of the woman who has to scrub and clean them. The water glass dries immediately and three coats should be put on one after the other. If you wish to change the colour of your floor, add yellow ochre or logwood dye (water colours, not oil). Try on a board until colour desired is obtained. When paint is dry cover it with a coat of varnish comprised of three parts linseed oil and one part Japan drier, mixed. Any kind of floor or old furniture may be treated in this way.—*Extract.*

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TURNIP TOPS AS A VEGETABLE.—When turnip tops get old they are strong and bitter and unfit for food; when young they are fine. Young turnip greens, with the root no larger than a lead pencil are a staple article in some markets abroad. They are used as Spinach, and are on every market stall.

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POULTRY NOTES.

EGGS.—The dry weather of December was favourable to egg laying, and still all through that month eggs were scarce selling in Kingston at 2/- and even 2/6 per dozen for especially good eggs. In January the hens should be in full lay; if not the fowls are not worth feeding and should go to the pot.

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The setting of eggs should begin this month. In the first week we luckily—or was it foresight and good management—were able to set 50 eggs in the natural way, and we hope that some of the best of the birds that are hatched will be our stock birds in 1918 and 1919. The pullets will lay by July and August of this year. (This is counting chickens before they are hatched, perhaps).

It is best always to set 2 or more hens together so that in the event of poor hatches, one hen may be given as many chickens as she can cover, and so not have hens running with a few chickens only for 3 months, when one hen will do the work of raising 12 to 18 chickens quite efficiently.

So few use incubators that we do not write for these. Sufficient to say—follow the maker's directions closely, and try a small hatch of common eggs first, if you have had no previous experience. Hens are better for the ordinary country household where perhaps 100 to 200 chickens are ahout the most ever hatched, and that spread over six to nine months of the year.

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Hens should not be set in the nest boxes where they were laying, as probably other hens would be laying in the same nest, and there is the chance of an extra egg or two being laid after incubation is started and also of the setting hen being disturbed.

The following are useful hints in the hatching of chickens:—Date all the eggs laid, select from the hest hens meant for hatching, turn them every day, do not set any over a fortnight old, the fresher the better. Set the hens in a quiet place. Set two or three at one time giving only enough eggs as the hens can conveniently cover. Do not set very large eggs and small eggs in the same nest; they get unequal heat and the large eggs may break the small ones when the hen moves them round and over; unequal eggs do not move well in the nest. Make the nest of soft grass not harsh straw. See that the coop, hox or barrel is clean. A barrel laid on its side makes a handy setting place. Put some cedar leaves, or fever grass, or sour-sop leaves in the nest; these help to keep insect pests away. A little Napthalene in a small piece of cloth, such as is now used for keeping weevils out of corn, is the best, however, for this purpose. If the hen is set in a strange nest in the evening and shut up, and taken off to feed two or three days and put back, she will then go back to the nest herself. See that the setting hen gets off every day and gets feed and water.

If the hens are thus looked after when setting, they will keep in good condition, in the event of a poor hatch, when the chickens are handed over to another hen, hen can be set again if no others are handy, or be put off the set.

When hens cluck and want to set, but are not wanted for this, it is ea them off, as a rule. Do not use any barbarous methods, such as dousing water or starving them. Do not put them in a coop where they can sit d fortably on straw; some persistent sitters will then think they are all r without any eggs. Preferably put them in a run by themselves or a sp within sight of other birds, and feed and water plentifully. Three or f treatment in this way will put them off the set.

If fowl lice unfortunately get a hold through any carelessness, dip the hen in Paranaph solution—or if careful owners, spray same as for ticks making sure that the soft under feathers are soaked. Burn the nest, coop out and set the hen in another place and in another coop Fowl they get a hold are persistent livers, and in the cracks of boxes and coo escape fire and water. It takes a thorough soaking with strong cattle them in the coops.

We use turkey hens as well as fowls for sitting on hens eggs and find best of mothers. Last season, three turkey hens hatched seventy-four and raised seventy-two chickens, but that was good; two of the turkeys out two lots in the season. Those who raise turkeys, will, however, want t hens for hatching young turkeys.

Those who only rear chickens should keep two or three turkey hens, eggs and set them on fowl eggs. It is worth trying. A turkey can cove hens' eggs. Different circumstances may have different results.

Next month we shall write about rearing the chickens. We find plen readers, or readers who are only beginning to interest themselves in fowls.

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STOCK NOTES.

Dry weather has apparently set in strong in some districts. Dece not a drop of rain in some places; in others there were good showers. Dr favours the increase of ticks. Every cattle owner, even if he has only a should be armed with a spray pump. Not only is this spray pump h economical to spray cows and indeed all stock (for lice on goats there i better) but it is useful to spray disinfectants under the house, and get in corners in the house.

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In the case of large herds, it will surely pay to adopt either the spra or the dipping tank. At the Stock Farm at Hope, and at Mr. Henry Conra field, St. Ann, there are dipping tanks where the cattle walk up an alley through a tank containing the tick mixture. At Knockalva, where there is largest herds in Jamaica on one estate, the spray bath has been adop cattle walk along an alley surrounded by a spray. Both methods are ec and efficient, and the methods and cost have been described in this JOURNA One farthing a head per month should keep ticks under, and in time de pest greatly, and if everybody was compelled to give treatment (a compuls does not at present seem practicable) in time ticks could be eradicated from The most we can do is to keep at the subject, show the loss incurred (every o be alive to the inconvenience and annoyance of having pastures infested wi if not, they do not ever walk in their pastures, or they would be alive to this) the easiness of modern treatment, and get our Instructors to help wake up gish and cannot-be-bothered cow owners. Most of the Instructors have d work already. They are armed with a spray pump and a supply of tick have given many demonstrations.

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LOST THE CUD.—This only means that the cow is suffering from a seve of indigestion. There are proprietary medicines to be had which are m in this connection, but all cattle owners should keep some of the most medicines in stock for use in any emergency.

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FEEDING HORSES.—Remember that horses like and thrive better on of diet, or a change in the form of diet. Even if corn is the only grain as it usually is, the form it is fed can be varied. Whole corn and nothing will not do so much good as ground corn for a spell and then soaked c way to get corn soaked so that it will be very much relished, is to get an e pork or salt beef barrel, give the inside one washing, then half fill it wi and put a half bushel or so of corn in it, enough to last several days. necessary.

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TWIN CALVES.—We seldom hear of twin calves here, but they do c

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the case of a bull and a heifer being born together, the latter should not be kept unless to be raised for beef as she will in 9 cases out of 10 never breed. If both the twins are two heifers they will breed; so will two bulls.

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GOAT'S MILK.—Milk is the most valuable of all foods, especially for the young. All children should get plenty, but unfortunately, although Jamaica is a land of honey, it is not a land of milk, but it should be and could be. The poorest people in the country can have feeding, and most keep goats, yet do not trouble to select the nannies, and train them for milk. Most nannies give a mere cupful, yet with the feeding generally available if care was taken in breeding, should give a quart.

With most cows and goats that are tethered out, the animals are not shifted often enough to fresh feeding. To tie out morning and evening is not enough.. Great care should be taken of the beasts that are meant for milkers; they should not be bred until at least 9 months old, and better still a year, and then they should be put to the son of a goat that was a good milker. Good breeding, good feeding and good selection of the best, would in a few years work wonders in the improvement of the milking qualities of goats.

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THE WAY TO IMPROVE STOCK.—There can be no great improvement in the stock one keeps unless there is some distinct aim, and there is patience and perseverance in keeping, breeding and selecting steadily towards that aim. Where one changes the kind of stock or the variety every now and then, no steady advance can be made. Breeding at random will never do much good. Many people give up one breed of stock because of some set-back for which special conditions are to blame, or they themselves are to blame, and sometimes they fare no better through the change. We ourselves have kept one breed of fowl here without a break for 20 years, and we know a lady here who has kept Belgian Hares very successfully and profitably for 20 years.

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FOOT ROT.—The continuous wet weather and the state of the soil, has caused a good deal of trouble in the feet of stock. Foot rot has occurred in sheep and goats. Where many sheep are kept and it is not convenient to catch up each one every day, and where the trouble is only beginning, the best method in checking its development and spread is to drive the sheep into a shed spread with white lime, so that *their feet get a good dusting. Where the foot rot is really bad this would not be* enough. The sheep should then be driven through a trough containing a solution of bluestone, and alum—8 ozs. of powdered bluestone, and 2 ozs. of powdered alum to each gallon of water. If the feet are saturated in this, it is an excellent cure. A good simple dressing for foot rot in sheep and goats when not too far gone is to clean out the hoofs, and thoroughly dress with Stockholm Tar. Where the cases are very bad and there are ulcerations and open sores, each animal should be caught up and the rotten pieces pared off carefully. The animals should be kept in a dry pen and their feet soaked in the blue stone and alum solution, or give a good dressing with a powder containing blue stone (4 parts alum, 1 part boric acid 1 part powder, ground very fine. This can be mixed with mutton fat or lard and used as a salve.

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FOOT DISEASE in mules also became common in the wet weather. Sometimes the mouth and feet are attacked simultaneously, and these parts require an entirely different treatment from each other. The hoofs of mules can be dealt with pretty much in the same way as foot rot in sheep. The affected parts of the hoofs should be well soaked with a strong disinfectant, and the above powder dusted in. When this disease was common all over St. Mary some years ago, the Department of Agriculture issued the following rules for treatment:—

(a) Give the animal soft food.

(b) Wash out the mouth thrice daily with a solution of ½ ounce Jeyes in a quart bottle of water.

(c) A little powdered Chlorate of Potash rubbed on the sores in the mouth s a desirable application.

(d) When the sores are beginning to heal dust the raw surface twice daily with a mixture of equal parts of Chalk and Boric Acid powder.

(e) The boils on the feet should be washed with dilute Jeyes (1 in 20) twice daily and, when beginning to heal, the raw surface should be treated with Zinc Ointment.

Those who find any difficulty about making up the powders mentioned, can obtain for use on the feet of horses and mules a made-up powder from us for 6d. Chlorate of Potash can be bought at any dispensers.

COMMENTS.

In the "Experiment Station Record," of the U.S.A. Departm of Agriculture, for July, 1916, we note some useful paragraphs field experiments in spraying apple orchards. Unfortunately, w applies to apples might not apply to coconuts or citrus trees, that is where experiments ought to be made here, to test suggest already made as regards other fruit trees.

It is stated that "Bordeaux Mixture gave the greatest efficie as a fungicide but also showed serious tendencies to injure fruit foliage. Lime-sulphur exercised a fair degree of control of fungi caused little damage to fruit or foliage. Bordeaux is especially commended where fungus diseases are known to be serious. addition of copper sulphate to lime-sulphur did not add to its use ness as a spray. Paris Green proved less effective than arser of lead when used in combination with standard insecticides for control of chewing insects. Arsenate of lead alone possessed pra cally no fungicidal value, and it is recommended that it never *used except in combination with a fungicide. Yet the addition of ars* ate of lead to lime-sulphur appears to increase the fungicidal valu the resulting spray, but its addition to Bordeaux does not incre the fungicidal value of the mixture."

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SEED COCONUTS.—A correspondent who has a large coco plantation in Panama, writes as follows:—

"We are getting more orders than we can fulfil for seed n of the Choco variety from the Pacific side of Panama. One Comp has contracted with us for the entire output of our plantation in 1 for planting purposes. Recent tests of comparative weight of m between the San Blas nut and the Choco nut gave as a result eq weight of meat between the largest San Blas nut available at t time, and the smallest Choco nut we have shipped. There are pec who will claim that the San Blas variety is the heavier producer a better shipper, but this has not been my experience."

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We have imported many thousands of these Choco nuts planting here. After the hurricane of 1903 we imported large qua ties of San Blas nuts for planting to renew the plantations destro and latterly we got reports on how these turned out. They have been a great success. The trees bear large nuts as a rule but t are not heavy bearers. The husk is thick and the shape of the not so desirable commercially as the Choco variety which has a v thin husk with a very round nut inside.

The demand is so great for these nuts in Central America, the price of freight so very high, that it is prohibitive to impo t more

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COFFEE MACHINERY.—Messrs. Wm. McKinnon and Co., Lt Aberdeen, Scotland, write us that they have sent us on a copy of new catalogue they have issued. They claim that it is the only co plete catalogue relating to coffee machinery ever published; t they have spared no expense nor trouble to make the publicat not only attractive, but helpful to all those interested in the act cultivation of coffee and the curing of the berries. They add, t they have brought out this catalogue knowing exactly the requi ments of every coffee producing country in the world, the firm be

e pioneers of coffee plantation machinery. They explain that :hough it may not be wonderful that the firm should be the first to blish a complete catalogue, yet the fact may have some tendency counteract the pessimistic comments of British business initiative, ice not only the firm's late competitors in Germany, but makers coffee machinery in the United States have not published a catalogue the English language giving the information contained in the 366 ges of which their book of reference is composed.

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A correspondent in a district in the mountains of Colombia, ites:—"*We are having the worst rainy season that we have ever* n, with the result that there is neither railroad nor any otherkind road."

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WAR.—On the whole the great war in Europe has been taken) light-heartedly here. Scores of young men of the well-to-do sses immediately the war broke out paid their passage, which at t was £25, to England to enlist (while we met many passing through ngston who had come from Peru and Chili and other very distant ts from where it cost over £50. to take them to London) and later en the passage money for those who intended to enlist was reduced £12 10/-, many more went, and hundreds of others were anxious go but could not afford the passage money, so did not get away il recruiting for the Jamaica Contingents began here by which ie the war had been going on for a year. Some families have given) and three sons, and no fewer than three of the Custodes or Chief igistrates of parishes have lost sons who died in the fighting line. unfortunately there are numbers who are young and physically who could be spared from duty here but who have not responded. know of some old warriors who are far over age and who have onsible duties, yet who if they would be taken and could be useful ild go at short notice. They do much in other ways to help. eryone must make sacrifices. If the Germans ever gained control, re would be sacrifices indeed! The Contingents being raised here ready opportunity for any one to enlist. Four Contingents e gone, the fifth is ready. *Our Branch Societies should help.*

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BRANCH NOTES.

MT. REGALE (St. Mary.)—Regular monthly meeting Mt. Regale Schoolroom, . 1st. Present 12 members. Secretary reported that no reply had been re- ed from the Parochial Board to the letter from the Society. Other subjects t with Authorized Person's report. Secretary instructed to thank the Parent ety for free grant of seeds. Decided to advise the Parent Society that this ich would be glad to purchase about 4 bushels red peas, and about ½ bushel lack Eye. B. T. ATKINSON, Secretary.

MT. ANGUS. (St. Mary.)—Regular monthly meeting in the Mt. Angus School- ı, Dec. 2nd. Present, Rev. C. S. Brown in the Chair; 12 other members and the uctor. Small attendance due to heavy rains. Minutes last meeting read confirmed. Correspondence *re* seeds for spring planting. Decided that there be a great scarcity of seeds in the spring owing to excessive rains. This Branch require 2 bushels red pease, native; one bushel red pease, American; one bushel pease, one bushel seed corn. Probably much more can be sold if prices are not ıigh. Reported that some rogues have been going about the district charging lous sums for what they call "Cocoa Medicine." Resolved to approach the ernment also the member for the parish and his Honour the Custos *re* good ges' over the streams in the Bagnolds district. Report from Authorized Persons. lved that this Branch supports the following resolutions to be put on the agenda

of the Half Yearly Meeting: 1. That the Government be approached with a view of establishing Central Factories for the curing of small settlers cocoa. 2. That the payment to Authorized Persons be 3/- per day and mileage. 3. That goats, goatskins, pigs and poultry be placed on the schedule of the Authorized Persons Law. 4. That postage to Instructors be free. 5. That the reports of Branch Meetings be published regularly in the JOURNALS and a list of Branches that fail to send in report be published also. 6. That the Journals be illustrated. 7. That the license on guns be removed and the duty on Powder and shots be raised. 8. That cocoa pruners be certificated. The meeting adjourned till Saturday, 30th Dedember.

T. A. BURKE, Secretary.

LABYRINTH (St. Mary.)—Regular monthly meeting Labyrinth Schoolroom, 5th December. Present, the President in the Chair. 15 members, 2 visitors and the Instructor. Minutes last meeting read and confirmed. Matters arising out of Minutes discussed. Correspondence read. Members were informed that no more seeds were obtainable from the Parent Society, except vegetable seeds. Secretary instructed to order cabbage, turnip, carrot, beet root, and Irish potatoes. Circular from Parent Society *re* crops considered, following conclusions arrived at. Bananas will be plentiful July and August. Yam crops 50% of average of last 3 years. Pease and beans poor. Resolved that one bushel of the following seeds from the Parent Society be ordered: Red pease, marrow fat, Black Eye. Circular *re* Half Yearly Meeting considered. Mr. Ransell Moncrieffe appointed delegate. Agreed members subscribe for his travelling expenses. Resolved to ask Secretary of the Parent Society to place on agenda of the Half Yearly Meeting to place on the following resolutions: 1. That Authorized Persons be paid 3/- per day plus mileage. 2. That the following be added to the schedule of the Authorized Persons Law: Goats, goatskins, pigs and poultry. Instructor addressed the meeting *re* foodstuffs.

L. A. GOHAGEN, Secretary.

CHESTERFIELD (St. Mary.)—Regular monthly meeting in the Chesterfield Schoolroom, December 5th. Present, C. H. Hunt in the Chair. Correspondence read letter from Instructor regarding seeds for planting and the Secretary was instructed to reply. Circular from the Secretary of Parent Society *re* Half Yearly Meeting. Resolved that Secretary attend Half Yearly Meeting as delegate of this Branch. Circular *re* crops—conclusions arrived at, that there will be a small crop of bananas from June to July, 1917. Yams—spring crop none. Most of the seeds received from the Parent Society have rotted in the ground on account of the long excessive rains. Corn—a very small and poor crop. Discussion took place on the growing of corn, resolved to plant largely in the spring and secure a mill for the making of corn meal. Meeting adjourned.

A. V. HAGUES, Secretary.

CLIFTON-NEWSTEAD (St. Mary.)—The regular monthly meeting was held in the Clifton Lodge Schoolroom on Wednesday, 6th December, at 4 p.m. Mr. Cradwick, the Agricultural Instructor, was present, and also Messrs. Leslie Mais, President, in the Chair; Z. E. McFarlane, Secretary; L. J. Hoilett, Assistant Secretary; and 12 members. Mr. Cradwick introduced a duplicate letter-book in which the Secretary may retain copies of important letters sent to the Parent Society or Agricultural Instructors. It was unanimously agreed to that the meetings be held on the 1st Monday in each month, instead of the 1st Thursday. The Instructor explained that we may have his presence more regularly on the 1st Monday. However, the first Monday of January being New Year's day, the next regular meeting will be held on the 3rd Monday, i.e., the 15th January, 1917. Mr. Cradwick spoke forcibly of the lethargy into which the Society had fallen on account of the lack of interest on the part of some of the officers and members, and emphasised the importance of coming to the meetingsa at the fixed hour. He then mentioned that at the next meeting a schedule of rules must be drawn up. Two letters from the Parent Society were read, and the Secretary was instructed how to answer them. Mr. Cradwick's lecture was very instructive. He dealt chiefly with the topics on the agenda for the coming Half Yearly Meeting, and asked whether this branch can send a delegate to have it represented. It was resolved that a special meeting be convened on the 19th of December, and a committee be appointed to consider the matter. Next, the report from the Collector General was submitted, and each member was amazed to hear of the large sums we are paying yearly to America for such commodities as milk, butter, pork, ham, salt beef, leather, beer, peas, corn, etc., hence it was unanimously agreed that this branch order from the Parent Society: Two bushels mixed peas, two bushels cow peas, and three bushels red peas. Next, the Secretary was asked to write to

Mr. Arnett asking him to visit this branch—it being a compound branch part in St. Mary "Newstead," under Mr. Cradwick, and part in St. Ann, Clifton, under Mr. Arnett. Z. E. McFarlane, Secretary.

Preston (St. Mary.)—Regular monthly meeting Preston Schoolroom, 8-12-16. Minutes last meeting read and confirmed. Correspondence read. Instructor suggested that in consequence of October and November meetings being washed out and the meeting being late it was not possible to deal with the correspondence and all the matters on the agenda suggested special meeting for Friday, 29th inst., 4 p.m. Agreed, and members promised to be punctual. In reply to circular from Secretary Parent Society, agreed that there will be shortage in the yam crop for 1917. In consequence of prolonged rains a large quantity—about 4 bushels of grains—for spring planting will be needed. Moved and unanimously carried that the Free Hill Sub-Branch be affiliated to this Branch. 1 6 affiliation fee received for 18 members and ordered to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Parent Society. Sub-branch asked for a free supply of grains and that the Journals might be sent in bulk to the Secretary Instructor impressed on the meeting the necessity of growing every possible kind of native foodstuffs in the largest quantities. Instructor asked what had been done to embrace the opportunity offered by Hon. R. P Simmonds to cure cocoa for members of the Branch. Secretary reported that no meeting of the Committee had been called. Instructor expressed his dissatisfaction with this in the strongest manner. Read letter of apology for absence from President also intimation that he will conduct a recruiting meeting at Preston Schoolroom on Tuesday, 12th inst. Secretary was asked if he had received a reply from the Parochial Board of St. Mary regarding the right of way from Preston Hill to Preston lands; he replied in the negative. C. Tucker read an extract from the August Journal *re* Hurricane Insurance. Decided to hold election of officers at the next meeting. It was moved that the quorum of an ordinary meeting be reduced from 12 to 7. J. N. Williams, Secretary.

Richmond (St. Mary.)—Regular monthly meeting Richmond Schoolroom December 11th. Present, C. G. Abraham, President, in the Chair; 11 other members. Owing to rain no meetings were held in October and November. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. Mr. McIntosh pointed out that the expected crops from the seeds supplied by the Parent Society had all been destroyed by heavy weather Resolved to send a delegate to the Half Yearly Meeting. The delegate to be instructed as to the wishes of the Branch regarding matters on the agenda of the Half Yearly Meeting. A petition praying for a deviation of the main road leading from Richmond to Troja was next signed by the members. Meeting adjourned to 4th Wednesday in January. F. A. Smith, Secretary.

Belfield (St: Mary)—Regular monthly meeting Belfield Schoolroom 13th December. Present, Rev. H. A. Mitchell, President; Instructor, 6 other members and the Secretary. Minutes were read and confirmed. An enquiry was made *re* resolution on deviation of roads. Report was read from Mr. Vernon regarding distribution of seeds sent by Parent Society, record of members which was rectified, also report from Mr. Vernon as delegate to last Half Yearly Meeting. Secretary was instructed to convey thanks of the Society to him. Read several letters from Parent Society. The one regarding crops the Instructor asked to be placed on the agenda for monthly review. Members reported that seeds received from Parent Society had been a failure on account of wet weather, and that the Society is likely to purchase from Parent Society 2½ bushels mixed pease, 2½ bushel red pease, 3 bushels seed corn. Resolved to thank Parent Society for grant of seeds. Committee appointed to send resolution to His Excellency the Governor *re* deviation of roads in this district to help poor labourers. Read letter from Richmond Loan Bank, instructing members to apply for loans early. Authorized Person presented report. Instructor urged necessity of sending delegate to Half Yearly Meeting. Resolved to send Mr. Vernon if agreeable to him, and if necessary to organize subscription to pay expenses. Instructor drew attention to Collector General's Report; this was placed on the agenda for next month's meeting.
Miss E. E. Ranger, Secretary.

Marlborough (St. Mary.)—Regular monthly meeting Marlborough Schoolroom 20th December. Present, A. J. Duncan, President; Z. French, 1st V.P.; J. A. Dixon, 2nd V.P., the Instructor, Secretary and 16 other members. Minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The report of the Seeds Committeet was adopted. Purchase of corn mill was referred to a committee. J. A. Dixon appointed Assistant Secretary. J. Harris and N. Senior were elected members. Letters from Parent

Society *re* unclaimed JOURNALS, attendance of Instructors at Branch Meetings, food crops and Half Yearly General Meeting were read. J. A. Dixon appointed Delegate Half Yearly Meeting. The President tendered his resignation, but was asked to reconsider it, which he did. Instructor gave a brief but encouraging address for which he was thanked. The meeting agreed to purchase the following seeds for the coming season: Jamaica red pease, one bushel; American red pease, ½ bushel; Jamaica mixed pease, ½ bushel. Meeting adjourned.

R. S. FINLAYSON, Secretary.

ORACABESSA (St. Mary.)—Regular monthly meeting Oracabessa Schoolroom, 19th Dec. Present Rev. W. D. Henderson in the Chair; the Instructor and 8 other members. Minutes read and confirmed. Correspondence read. Matters dealt with. Half Yearly General Meeting. Instructor placed before the meeting suggestion made by other Branches for the agenda of the Half Yearly Meeting, and after discussion it was resolved to support the following: 1. That A.P's. receive 2/- per day and mileage. 2. That pig, goats, goatskins and poultry be placed on the schedule of the A. P. Law. 3. That the old license of 2/- per annum be charged for guns kept solely for property use. 4. That pruners of cocoa be required to pass an examination and hold a certificate. 5. That all accounts of meetings be published in the JOURNAL and a note be made of any report sent up too late for publication. Also all Branch Societies sending up no report. 6. That the Parent Society be asked to take steps to ensure the sale of bananas during the coming year. 7. That the Society be asked to see if a more inexpensive way could not be devised for the registration of titles. 8. That a Law be made to prevent the playing of cards dominoes and similar games in shops between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. 9. That owing to the difficulty of always getting to the Branch Societies, Mr. Cradwick be given an assistant. 10. That postage from the Branch Societies to the Instructors be free. 11. That the JOURNALS be illustrated. After discussing the banana situation it was agreed that this port would furnish about 3,000 stems in March and gradually increase to about 20 000 in July. Meeting adjourned till 3rd Tuesday in January.

W. H. WYNTER, Secretary.

TRYALL HILL (St. Mary.)—On Tuesday, December 26, 1916, regular meeting of the Society was held. The minutes being read and confirmed, the matters on the agenda were dealt with in order. The subject which claimed the attention of the meeting was the want of land room in and around these districts, for rent or purchase. A vote of thanks to His Excellency for the seeds obtained by the Society as Hurricane Relief was passed and one also to Mr. W. Cradwick (travelling Instructor) through whose vigilance the Society was able to obtain its share of the distributed seeds. It was further urged that His Excellency's attention be called to the fact that the intended results from the distribtuion of the seeds has not been attained, and will not reach the intended expectations so long as the land conditions, which are most unsatisfactory, owing to lack of land obtainable by small settlers, and praedial larceny in these parts remain the same. The Secretary then called the attention of the meeting to the fact that the question was raised some time ago, but dropped, owing to the members' luke-warmness, but he believes that with the renewal of interest in it, the situation will be relieved, taking into consideraion His Excellency's willingness to consider the betterment of small settlers from time to time. Resolutions to be sent to the General Secretary for the Half Yearly Meeting. Report from Authorized Person was presented. Society's statement of accounts showed the amount of 12/9 in hand after affiliation fee and other expenses had been paid. Motion for next meeting that funds of Society be put in the Bank. The meeting then adjourned till the 4th Tuesday in January, 1917. A special meeting, however, to come off before.

A. A. CONSTABLE, Secretary.

COMFORT HALL (Manchester.)—At a meeting of this Branch held in the Schoolroom on Friday, 24th November, there were present: S. T. Glanville, President; eight members, R. A. Munroe, Secretary; the Agricultural Instructor and four visitors, who afterwards became members. As business arising out of the minutes, the Secretary informed the members that the seeds received were distributed and they were much appreciated. Mr. Powell informed the meeting that he can distribute seedling coffee to any member who so desires. The President reported much destruction being done to such plants as corn, peas, etc., by insects. It was decided to get from Mr Barclay some Paris Green to be distributed among the members. Mr. Powell will instruct how to mix. The Stock Committee reported that the Society Billy was no getting the same care as some months ago. It was decided that the goat be sold or exhanged at first opportunity, and the Committee instructed to deal with the matter. Mr. Palmer's notice of motion for an amendment to an old law regulat-

ing the sale of dye woods was considered. After discussion it was agreed on t at the Parent Society ask that the Government consider the advisabilit of amending that section of the law prohibiting the sale of logwood in any quantity less than 5 cwts. at a time, as this requirement tends to work hardship on the small grower. The matter is to be brought up at the Half Yearly Meeting. Mr. Powell, the Instructor, advised more attention to the cultivation of yams. He noticed a great decrease in the number of large yamfields. It is an unwise policy at the present time to sacrifice an increase of plants for wellmatured food. Mulching and manuring are means b which yam growers will regain some of their losses. He suggested the cultivation of the Barbados yam and promised to secure some of the plants to sell to members who will appy for them. The Secretary was asked to no ify Mr. Campbell of Craig Head of the date of next meeting when he might make it possible to attend and speak on the Labour Co-operation Scheme. Date of next meeting, 8th December. 1916.

R. A. MUNROE, Secretary.

MAIDSTONE (Manchester.)—The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Maidstone Branch was held at the usual place on 15th December, when there were present nineteen regular members, the Instructor for the district and two visitors, who were afterwards enrolled as members. The minutes of the last regular meeting and a special meeting were read and confirmed. As business from the minutes (a) the Secretary was instructed to write the Secretary of the Parent Society recommending the dismissal of Mr Simo Copeland, the Authorized Person for Mt. Prospect, on th written sugestion of the Inspector of Police. (b) The reply from Parochial Board to letter from President *re* Hurricane Sufferers was considered. The Branch thought it very strange that no financial help was given to a few deserving cases this way when such assistance was given in other districts. Arising from correspondence, members expressed gratitude for free gift of vegetable seeds, and several will try Irish po ato planting. They also agreed to utilize the Instructor's se vices in their fields more than in the past and this gave the Instructor pleasure. The President will be the delegate from this Branch at the Half Yearly General Meeting. Then followed a lecture on the Food Question, which was most attentively listened to. The usual vote of thanks was given the Instructor. The reports from the Auth - rized Persons were presented. After fixing the date for next meeting—Feb. 16, 1917—the meeting adjourned.

J. T. WILSON, Secretary.

THORNTON (St. Thomas.)—The monthly meeting was held in the Schooolroom at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, the 20th December. Ten members were present. Mr. N. A. Patterson, Vice-President, presided. It was decided to get up the grindstone which could not be brought up before owing to the bad state of the road . The circular from the Parent Society *re* local prospects of crop was considered. It was agreed that: 1. Bananas will be fairly plentiful between April and May. 2. Owing *to hurricane and rain the yam crop is partly a failure. In the Spring and Summer* there ought to be a fair amount of potatoes and cocoes. 3. The crops of peas and beans have all been destroyed there will be none for planting. 4. The corn planted since September has all been a failure. Mr. N. A. Patterson has been appointed delegate to attend the Half Yearly Meeti g. The Authorized Person presented his report.

JAS. BROWN, Secretary.

CAMBRIDGE-WOODFORD (St. Andrew.)—The monthly meeting of this Branch was held on 7th December. There were present, Rev. S. T. A Jones, President; Rev. R A. Clare Secretary, and seven other members. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Arising out of the minutes, a copy of a petition lately sent from this Branch to His Excell ncy the Governor *re* relief work on the Maryland Road and correspondence on the subject was read for the information of the members. In a discussion on Relief Loans, it was thought that this Branch should have been supplied with copies of the prospectus of the Stony Hill Loan Bank. The Secretary was asked to inquire about it. Correspondence was read and dealt with. The Secretary was unanimously elected Delegate to the Half Yearly Meeting. As it now became late other matters on the agenda were postponed to be dealt with on Monday, 11th inst. The adjourned meeting was resumed on Monday, 11th inst., with the President, Secretary and nine other members present. The circular from the Parent Society on crops was considered, and replies given to the various questions These are sent direct to the Secretary. The Secretary mentioned that he had received two bushels peas and red kidney beans, two barrels Irish potatoes, some vegetable seeds including pumpkins, as hurricane relief, and presented a statement of how it had been distributed.

R. A. CLARE, Secretary.

PORT ROYAL MOUNTAINS (St. Andrew.)—The monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Mt. Fletcher Schoolroom on the 23rd December. There were present: The President, Rev. E. Mair in the Chair; the Secretary, Mr. N A. Grey, and 12 other members. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. As matters arising from the minutes dealt principally with correspondence, this was dealt with at the same time. This was *re* (1) the appointment of a resident J.P. for the district, and (2) Loan Banks; (3) the severance of the connection between this Society and that at Gordon Town as a Sub-Branch; (4) Relief work on the road of the district Seed potatoes which were on hand for distribution were now given out The members were very pleased for the gift and asked to convey their gratitude to Mr. Barclay for these and other seeds which he has allocated to this Branch since the storm Many of the members regretted having to report an entire loss of the peas already granted from the recent severe storm. The meeting then adjourned.

N. A. GREY, Secretary.

MORAVIA (Clarendon.)—On the 14th December, this Branch met in the Schoolroom. The President presided. The Agricultural Instructor, Mr. S. A. Schleifer, was present and 8 members. A vote of sympathy with the Rev W. R. Morris on the death of his wife was passed. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The deputation who waited on Mr. Allen *re* right of way through his place, presented their report, but final settlement of the matter was held over for next meeting. Correspondence was read and dealt with. Mr. J. N. Simpson was nominated to represent this Society at the next Half Yearly General Meeting. The Authorized Persons being absent, the discussion on the circular *re* that matter was left over for a special meeting to be arranged. Subjects dealt with: The buying of uncured produce, notification to be sent the Instructor when his services are needed, a vote of thanks to the Parent Society or hurricane relief seeds. Instructor advised to plan as much foodstuffs as could be planted, particularly sweet potatoes, as there would be a terrible shortage of food in the coming year. Arrangements were made to have a demonstration on the proper use of temper lime at the most convenient centre by the Instructor in February next. A vote of thanks to Messrs. T. Abrahams and Co., Chapelton, for their circular to the people of this district to join the Agricultural Society and thereby improve their condition, and also one to the Instructor were passed. The National Anthem closed the meeting.

J. N. SIMPSON, Secretary.

MAIN RIDGE (Clarendon.)—The monthly meeting of this Branch was held December 15, 1916 As the President and Vice-President were late in coming, Mr. D. H. Cummings was asked to preside. Fourteen members and the Secretary were present. Three apologies for absence were received. The minutes were read and confirmed. Matters arising out of minutes were discussed. Correspondence from General Secretary was read and dealt with. A warm debate took place on "How to cope with Praedial Larceny, which is now on the increase, despite the vigilance of the Authorized Persons," and a resolution on the subject to be sent to the Governor was carried. Members paid in their co-operative shares. The Treasurer's report was read and adopted. Mr. Goldbourne read extracts from September Journal He was awarded a hearty vote of thanks. He was appointed delegate to the General Half Yearly Meeting Time of next meeting, January 3, 1917. Place, Comfort. Singing of the National Anthem brought the meeting to a close.

H. A. ANGLIN, Secretary.

ST. JOHN'S (Upper) St. Catherine.—The usual monthly meeting of this Branch was held on 12th December. The President being ill, and the Vice-President absent, Mr. J. H. Nelson took the Chair. There were present 15 members, including the Instructor, Mr. H. Leo Mossman and the Secretary, and a few visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Matters arising out of them were dealt with. Correspondence was also read and dealt with. M . C. D. Brown was appointed delegate to attend the Half Yearly Meeting on the 18th January next. The Instructor then gave a very lengthy but profitable and interesting talk to all present. He spoke strongly on Sugar Factories, and outlined a scheme which he would like to see put into operation. Several members spoke in favour of the scheme for the sugar factory. The subject will be resumed at next meeting. A Committee consisting of the President, Messrs. Rhoden, Nelson, Bridge, Wisdom, and the Secretary was appointed to deal with the fixture, and to frame rules f r the proper working of the corn mill. Mr. Bridge also mentioned that a barrel of seed potatoes was sent from the Parent Society for free distribution to members The roll was called and the meeting terminated.

E. THOS. HAMILTON, Secretary.

BERRY HILL (St. Catherine.)—A special meeting was held in the Berry Hill Schoolroom on the 12th December, 1916. Present were: W. R. Osborne, president; one Vice-President, 19 other members and one visitor. Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Joseph Bailey was appointed delegate to the Half Yearly General Meeting. Our meeting was not a lengthy one, but several matters were discussed and laid aside to be put before Mr. H. L. Mossman, our Instructor, on the 29th prox. The meeting then came to a close with the singing of the National Anthem. C. N. Henry, Secretary.

BROWN'S HALL (St. Catherine.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on December 13, 1916. President, Rev. G. L. Young, President; Messrs. Geo. Thomas, V. P.; H. L. Mossman, J. P., Agricultural Instructor; three other members, two visitors and the Secretary. Arising out of the minutes of the previous meeting the President reported on the distribution he had made of the gifts of seeds sent to this Branch. A vote of thanks to the Government for the gifts was carried. Circulars from the General Secretary were read and discussed. The Authorized Person submitted two questions with regard to difficulties he has experienced. The Secretary was instructed to send a copy of the questions to the Parent Society. The Instructor addressed the meeting on the sugar industry. He suggested a plan whereby 15 persons each subscribing £5 could procure a small cane mill at a cost of £75 and form a Co-operative Society that would be a boon to the district and so displace the present slow method of making sugar. The idea was heartily supported by the members present, and a Committee is to be formed to consider this matter on the 30th inst. Mr. J. T. Johnson gave notice of motion *re* the appointment of a J.P. for the district. Other minor matters were dealt with and the meeting adjourned with the singing of the National Anthem.

J. M. COUSINS, Secretary.

BROWN'S TOWN (St. Ann.)—A meeting of this Branch was held on the 1st. December, 1916. The President being unavoidably absent, Mr. J. Hobson took the Chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr. Arnett gave a most instructive lecture on the cultivation of catch crops, especially referring to those seeds that the Society has supplied to us. The co-operation scheme was discussed, and it was decided to send as deputation Messrs. J. Gabbadon, Martin and J. C. Riley, to view the work done and report at the next meeting.

REV. A. GROVES WOOD, Secretary.

MONEAGUE (St. Ann.)—A very interesting meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, the 14th inst. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting, several letters were read from the Parent Society. The Secretary was instructed to answer the most important ones. After several minor matters were dealt with, the President addressed the meeting *re* food crops. The President was thanked for his address and the members all promised to start planting catch crops right away. One new member, who is also to be made an Authorised Person, was elected. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, the 11th January next.

T. E. ROSE, Secretary.

CAVE RIVER (St. Ann.)—At a special meeting of his Branch held on the 22nd December, there were present, besides the Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, eight other members. The circular sent out *re* prospective crops was lengthily discussed, and after due consideration, the following was arrived at: 1. That bananas will come in in small quantities during August and Septemer, and in larger quantities during October and November. 2. That the yam crop on account of the severe loss sustained by the bad weather will be very poor in comparison to the three previous years. 3. That at present the crops of peas and beans are small, and as a result there will be little for planting during the spring. 4. Allowing for weather conditions the prospects for the corn crop is very hopeful.

H. A. CLARKE, Secretary.

GOODWILL (St. James.)—The usual monthly meeting of this Branch was held on the 4th December, 1916. There were present: Messrs. P. W Duffus, Vice President; Mr. M. Rennie, the Instructor; E. Keween, Treasurer, the Secretary, and twenty-three other members. The minutes were read and confirmed. A collection for the purchase of rat poison from the Parent Society was made. Two letters received from Mr John Barclay were read and discussed. Mr. F. T. Sinclair was appointed delegate to the Half Yearly Meeting. The Secretary was instructed to inform the Parent Society that peas planted before the recent weather have been

greatly affected There is no crop. If good seasons follow the seeds received will be in time for spring. Mr. Rennie gave an excellent address on Irish potatoes. He told the members that by cultivating with attention a man was able to purchase a donkey from the proceeds. He promised to send 25 lbs. to be distributed to 8 or 10 members for cultivation. Tapioca was dealt with also. He told the members how it is made. A discussion on ways which the Society may adopt for making its financial resources strong was brought up. After a short debate, the members proposed to leave this matter in abeyance. The members received peas sent by the Parent Society at the close of the meeting. F. T. SINCLAIR, Secretary.

SOMERTON (St. James.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the schoolroom on the 11th inst. at the usual hour. There were present, 20 members, the Instructor Mr. Rennie and several visitors. Minutes were read and confirmed after which correspondence was dealt with. Questions asked by Parent Society relative to food prospects were answered. Mr. Rennie making the necessary explanations. A letter from the Waldensia Branch relative to special gun license for destruction of paraquets destroying corn fields was read, and received the hearty support of the Branch. Mr W. R Robotham was appointed to attend the Half Yearly General Meeting as the delegate from this Branch. A discussion on canes followed. Mr. C. Jenkins, who was to have led in the discussion being absent, the Instructor addressed the meeting on the subject. Rules to govern the Society were read and explained by the President. It was agreed that printed copies be got and each member get one. The discussion of the usefulness of Penny Banks was deferred till a special meeting to come off on the 18th inst. The Instructor was accorded a hearty vote of thanks to which he suitably replied, and the meeting adjourned with the singing of the National Anthem.

FRANK ARMSTRONG, Asst. Secty.

RURAL HILL (Portland.)—The monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Rural Hill School Room on the 5th December, 1916. Eight members were present, and also the Secretary, Vice-President (who took the Chair) and Instructor L. A. Wates, Esq. The minutes were read and confirmed, and matters arising out of them dealt with. The Instructor pointed out the necessity for the increased planting and use of native foodstuffs. The Instructor promised to lecture on pigs next meeting. The meeting then adjourned till the 2nd January, 1917.

A. A. FLEETWOOD, Secretary.

KENSINGTON (Portland.)—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on the 6th December, 1916. Present: Messrs. C. C. Neufville, President, presiding; H. E. Thompson V.P.; F. S. A. Williams, V.P.; T. O. Allwood, Treasurer; the Instructor, the Asst. Secretary, R. C. Howell, and 19 members—25 in all. Asst. Secretary informed meeting of the indisposition of the Secretary, W. A. H. Bignall. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. Matters arising out of them were dealt with. The debate Sugar Canes, vs. Bananas, was postponed for next meeting. Correspondence from Parent Society was read and discussed. A delegate to the Half Yearly General Meeting is to be chosen later. The Instructor lectured on various subjects and encouraged members to cultivate all the foodstuffs that they possibly can. The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to the Instructor for his interesting lecture. He then went on to speak on co-operation A profitable and enthusiastic meeting terminated by the singing of the National Anthem.

R. E. HOWELL, Assistant Secretary.

WARSOP (Trelawny.)—This branch held its usual monthly meeting on the 6th December, 1916. Present: The Vice-President, the Secretary and a few other members. After the preliminaries were got through, a letter from the Secretary of the Parent Society asking for the opinion of the members of this Branch, as to the local prospects of certain crops, was read. A lively and interesting discussion followed, and each item in the letter was dealt with. *Re* (a) Bananas, it is the opinion of the members that owing to the recent storm and the want of capital, there will be a very small crop of banans in 1917, and that crop will be a late one. (b) the heavy showers which fell in the latter part of 1916 have had a bad effect on the yam crop. It will be about 75% below that of the past three years. The outlook is, therefore, very gloomy. (c) The peas and beans that were planted in the fall of this year are all destroyed. (d) Corn crop—nil. After other matters of minor importance were dealt with, the meeting was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem. U. K. WALTERS, Secretary.